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BY W. J. MULHAD.

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CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

Fifty-first Congress—Second Regular Session

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1870.

Senate.

The Vice President presented resolutions of the Legislature of Iowa ratifying the Fifteenth Amendment.

Mr. Abbott, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported a bill to provide for the appointment of a collector of the Department of State, and to provide additional clerks for that Department.

Mr. Sherman, from the Committee on Finance, reported a resolution requesting the President to withdraw the correspondence with foreign Governments relative to the common standard of international coinage.

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds reported a resolution to provide for additional seats in the Senate Chamber.

Mr. Drake called up his resolution altering the rules so as to that Indian treaties shall be referred to the Senate when it was amended, on motion of Mr. Edmunds, to exempt cases where the President desires to communicate confidentially any Indian treatise, and then passed.

Mr. Wilson moved to lay the West Point appropriation bill, which was passed.

Mr. Abbott offered a resolution calling on the President for information relative to the collection of the cotton cases in the Court of Claims, the costs of pending suits, &c. Adopted.

Mr. Robertson called up the bill to remove the political disabilities of persons therein named.

Amendments were offered adding a number of other names; which were agreed upon.

Mr. Edmunds referred to the name of V. A. Witcher, of Virginia, who was the party, he said, who had, against whom no indictment was returned for murder, but who, Mr. Witcher has just sent him and informed him that although indictments were pending against him, he was not guilty.

Mr. Abbott offered a resolution to have the name of Mr. Witcher left off.

Mr. Hornerman said Mr. Witcher had behaved very badly, but was now a Republican or proposed to act with that party.

A Senatorial amendment that no member of any body can have his name printed, so he now acted with the Radical party, he was all right, and his disabilities were removed at once. He (Mr. S.) suggested that the name of Mr. Witcher, our late senator, be added to the list, as Mr. Davis has shown signs of sincere repentance.

The name of Mr. Witcher was then struck out, as was also the name of Drury Wood, of Virginia, who was the party he was prepared to wait for.

Mr. Stewart moved an amendment providing that the disabilities of all parties, except former members of Congress, judges of the United States courts and officers of the army and navy, should be removed by filing application in any of the Circuit or District Courts of the United States; this provision to take effect after the ratification of the Fifteenth amendment had been duly provided.

After some little discussion, Mr. Stewart, without his amendment at the request of several Senators, who said it would jeopardize the bill in the House. He remarked that it was a good compromise, however, when a provision of this nature must be passed, and he should bring it forward at the first favorable opportunity.

Mr. Johnson proposed to add the names of certain radicals, among whom was Mr. Sumner.

Mr. Sumner said it would be well to pause before adding the names of any more citizens of Virginia. He had received letters from Virginia to the effect that parties there had been so bad that their removal would be a saving to the country, and the Congress would be saved a vast amount of money that was needlessly expended.

Congress, however, opposed the resolution.

Mr. Abbott, from his own side, in view

of the Senate's action, proposed an amendment to the Postmaster General on account of the alarm contained therein that the Postmaster General was the author of these petitions. It was also an insult to the Senate to have its name mentioned in Congress. It was agreed that the Petitioners would be saved a vast amount of money that was needlessly expended.

He believed if these wholesale publications would be more careful, would be more careful of their interests, and would be more sparing upon matters of the greatest importance to the country. He believed, also, there were private enterprises enough to publish all the documents and matter transacted in Congress that were necessary. It was agreed that the Petitioners would be saved a vast amount of money that was needlessly expended.

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